

Minutes of the Public Works Committee December 8, 2011

Chair David Swan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: County Board Supervisors David Swan (Chair), Walter Kolb, Pauline Jaske, Pamela Meyer, Tom Schellinger, Daniel Draeger, Peter Gundrum.

Also Present: County Board Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Highway Operations Manager Pete Chladil, Business Manager Betsy Forrest, Architectural Services Manager Dennis Cerreta, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels.

Approve Minutes of November 10, 2011

MOTION: Schellinger moved, Draeger second, to approve the minutes of November 10, 2011. Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

- Fall 2011 issue of Pipeline Awareness
- Minutes and materials from December 1, 2011 public hearing regarding service reductions to bus routes 901 and 905.

Chair's Executive Committee Report November 14, 2011

Swan reported the following occurred at the November 14, 2011 executive committee meeting:

- Approval of Ordinance 166-O-078
- Updates on Community Development Block Grant Program
- Discussion of Waukesha County Board committees schedule for 2012-2014 term.

Future Meeting Date

- January 12, 2012

Ordinance 166-O-081: Modify the Transportation Fund 2011 Budget for Additional State Highway Maintenance Revenues and Expenditures

Forrest, Bussler, Chladil and Daniels presented the ordinance. Approval of this ordinance modifies the Public Works transportation fund 2011 budget by increasing general government revenues by \$350K and appropriating \$100K for personnel expenses (primarily overtime) and \$350K to interdepartmental charges for higher for expected fuel costs and consumption (\$150K) and weather related equipment usage, repair and maintenance charges (\$100K) associated with state highway maintenance costs.

Schellinger asked was the amount of overtime needed typical? Chladil said transportation fund overtime is dictated by weather. Forrest said these overtime costs were incurred between January to March 2011 and are significant. Kolb asked how would new state rules regarding the calculation of overtime affect Waukesha County? Chladil said the county's new overtime policies went into effect November 19, 2011 and have yet to be tested. Bussler said the state will benefit from the changes made to Waukesha County's policies.

The committee discussed lines 21 to 23 of the ordinance at length to get a better understanding of the higher than estimated state reimbursement revenues specified on these lines (\$650K to \$750K) versus the amount appropriated by this ordinance. The discussion revealed the following points:

- The budget is developed with conservative estimates, which may result in budget modifications by ordinance.

- At this time, the county is fully reimbursed for all expenses related to maintenance of state highways.
- Transportation funding received in excess of budgeted amounts is appropriated when it is needed so it does not lapse into the general fund at the end of the year.
- Transportation funding received in excess of budgeted amounts and not appropriated lapses into the transportation fund balance.
- The department does not need spending authority for all received state reimbursement funds at this time.
- It is important that the department not spend all transportation funding before the end of the year in case of weather incidents.

Bussler committed to providing the committee with a yearend financial report.

MOTION: Kolb moved, Gundrum second, to approve Ordinance 166-O-081. Motion carried 7-0.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Building and County Grounds Service Center (CGSC) Update

Cerreta said the CGSC is 65% complete and on time and budget. The building should be completed by the end of 2011 with occupancy expected during February 2012. Asbestos will be removed before the old CGSC is demolished in March 2012 (weather permitting). The temporary golf tee is in, seeded and will be ready for spring 2012 golf. Remaining landscaping of the area will be finished in spring 2012.

Construction begins in April 2012 on the new HHS building (weather permitting) with completion expected by the end of 2013. The one project complaint received since the neighborhood meeting was quickly managed. Overall, the project is under budget and staff is hopeful the current momentum will continue. Cerreta offered committee members tours of the area.

In response to Kolb's question about materials for the new HHS building, Cerreta explained materials from Spancrete are made in Wisconsin while the outer, horizontal terra cotta wall panels are made in Europe. Jaske mentioned her preference for buying products and services made in Waukesha County, Wisconsin or the United States. Bussler said she was surprised to learn that many of the 42 contractors for the project are local. Bussler volunteered to provide more details on the building contractors at a future meeting.

Presentation: Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) System and Weather Service

With a computer and projector, Chladil gave the committee a "tour" of the state-owned and maintained AVL system and weather service. He explained that in addition to showing the location of patrol trucks, landmarks, cameras with live feed and substations statewide, the system is capable of providing real time weather, wind conditions, visibility, dew point, relative humidity, temperatures, precipitation amounts, pavement temperatures, etc. Real data obtained from truck and pavement sensors are used to develop road maintenance recommendations and weather predictions. Chladil reviewed a snow incident from January 30 to February 1, 2011 saved on the system including weather forecasts, actual weather, liquid and snow depths, ice, road conditions, amount of salt spread sections of roadway, etc. System data helps Waukesha County manage storms. Chladil demonstrated the system's immense reporting system.

In response to Swan's question, Chladil said the large amount of detail about the state's roads is saved in the database and has many uses including determination of roadway temperatures including road thickness, type of material, gravel, sub-base materials, sun/shade, etc. for all state highways.

Swan asked does the tracking system make employees nervous? Chladil said the system is used to manage plowing rather than as a disciplinary tool. He is very communicative about the system and

employees understand the system helps them do their jobs better and protects them and the county by limiting liability. Staff who are doing what they are supposed to be doing do not mind the system. There have been no complaints because people are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

Chladil said with routes taking two to three hours to complete, county plow drivers can keep up with one inch of snow per hour. Each truck on I-94 is assigned a different task: ramps, lane assignments, clean ups, etc. Roadways are open and running countywide within 24 hours of a snow incident.

In response to Jaske question, Chladil said operators determine the amount of salt released within preset limits.

MOTION: Jaske moved, Meyer second, to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline T. Jaske
Secretary